

COVER PAGE

1. Country/Region:	Liberia	2. CIF Project ID#:	(Trustee will assign ID)
3. Source of Funding:	<input type="checkbox"/> FIP	<input type="checkbox"/> PPCR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SREP
4. Project/Program Title:	Liberia Renewable Energy Project (LIREP)		
5. Type of CIF Investment:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed
6. Funding Request in million USD equivalent:	<i>Grant:</i> USD 23.50 million	<i>Non-Grant:</i> NA	
7. Implementing MDB(s):	African Development Bank		
8. National Implementing Agency:	Rural Renewable Energy Agency		
9. MDB Focal Point and Project/Program Task Team Leader (TTL):	<i>Headquarters- Focal Point:</i> Leandro Azevedo l.azevedo@afdb.org		<i>TTL:</i> Antony Karembu a.karembu@afdb.org Djamali Ibrahime d.ibrahime@afdb.org
10. Project/Program Description:			
See Page 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the report.			
11. Consistency with Investment Criteria:			
See page 16, 17 and 18 of the report.			
12. Stakeholder engagement:			
<p>The design of the project has so far benefited from various consultations among development partners and the project implementation will benefit from the coordination arrangements already in place for the energy sector in Liberia which benefit from the fact that many partners are active in the energy sector in the country. The main ones include the World Bank, the European Union (EU), the Government of Norway and the Government of the United States of America and the African Development Bank (AfDB). In order to ensure mutual accountability and aid effectiveness, thematic working groups were established in close cooperation with the Government of Liberia (GoL) to ensure coordination is strong, effective and that no overlap exists. As per AfDB's Environmental & Social safeguards requirements, public consultations will be undertaken in the context of finalizing the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment studies, the Environmental and Social Management Plan and the Stakeholder Engagement plan. This will result in the implementation of a grievance redress mechanism that will be designed taking into considerations these consultations. Meetings will be held with communities in the project area in the Nimba County and with relevant national institutions such as (i) the Environmental Protection Agency, (ii) the Ministry of Public Works, (iii) the Forestry Development Authority, (iv) Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy, and (v) Ministry of Gender and Ministry of Health.</p> <p>The Project Coordination Unit will hire an Outreach Expert to ensure that the consultation process to be put in place as part of the full Environmental and Social assessment, is based on meaningful consultations (free, prior and informed) with communities likely to be affected by the project's environmental and social impacts, and with other local stakeholders. The approach taken shall ensure that all groups are embraced within the consultation process on equal terms, and that all groups are given the capacity to express their views with the knowledge that these views will be properly considered.</p>			

13. Gender considerations:

In 2009, the GoL approved the country's National Gender Policy, a document that illustrates the strong commitment by the GoL to gender equality by eliminating all forms of gender based discrimination. The vision of the policy is to establish a just society where girls and boys, women and men enjoy their human rights equally on the basis of non-discrimination; where the full potentials of all, irrespective of sex, are harnessed towards achieving equitable rapid economic growth and equal access to social, financial and technological resources. Women and girls play central role in Liberia's economy but face various structural constraints hindering them from effective participation in economic activities. These include limited access to inputs and services essential for carrying out productive functions; lack of an enabling environment to contribute effectively to the economy; absence from important key sectors and sources of employment such as public works and infrastructure rehabilitation; and male dominance in timber, mining and rubber which are key sources of Liberia's economic base. Customary practices, norms and biases continue to prevent women from obtaining land, credit, productive inputs and information.

The Rural Renewable Energy Agency (RREA), acting as the implementing unit of the proposed project, hired a gender focal point and its staff is benefiting from training and capacity building on gender as a result of the World Bank's Africa Renewable Energy and Access Program Gender and Energy Program. Despite the fact that the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) funded Liberia Renewable Energy Access Project approved in 2015 by the SREP Sub-Committee and the World Bank puts a considerable emphasis on gender both at the level of RREA and at the level of the people directly benefiting from the project, this proposed project will have a gender expert part of its Project Coordination Unit that will ensure that: (i) the gender component is central to the monitoring and evaluation function within RREA to ensure that sex-disaggregated data is collected and adequately monitored and reported, (ii) any environmental and social impact assessment to be prepared during the implementation of the project includes a strong gender component to ensure gender impacts are known and can be addressed, (iii) involve women in the decision making process regarding rural electrification, as well as educate women with regards to electrification so that they are able to be part of the construction and maintenance of the Hydro Power Plant. In that context, the EU is financing a scholarship program to facilitate women's access to training opportunities.

14. Indicators and Targets (consistent with results framework):

Core Indicators	Target
Annual electricity output in GWh	56.5
Increased public and private investments (in USD million)	4.59
Number of people with improved access to electricity (men/women)	282,500 / 282,500
GHG emissions avoided in tons CO2 equivalent (annual / lifetime)	44,804 / 1,344,120

15. Co-Financing:

	Amount (in USD million):	Type of contribution:
AfDB	4.82	Grant
GoL	1.16	Capital
Co-Financing Total:	5.98	

16. Expected Board/MDB Management approval date:

AfDB is expecting Board Approval by September 2017.